

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Mike Honda (D-CA), Chairman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), today released the following statement regarding President Bush's nomination of Judge Samuel Alito to the United States Supreme Court:

"Today's nomination of Judge Samuel Alito to replace Justice O'Connor is a missed opportunity for President Bush and for our country. I had hoped that the President would choose a nominee with a commitment to protecting our rights and freedoms, but it appears that he has bowed to the far right. President Bush could have shown leadership by uniting all Americans behind a consensus nominee who, like mainstream conservative Justice O'Connor, cherished the rights of all Americans, including the rights of minorities and vulnerable populations.

Instead, the President has nominated a judge who will divide the U. S. Senate and the American people. Now, I urge our Senators to truly examine all aspects of the nominee's record and make an independent judgment.

The critical issues at stake for the Asian and Pacific Islander Community include:

- equal justice and right of access to the courts;
- support for Congress' constitutional authority to pass civil rights legislation;
- support for Supreme Court precedent including the landmark Roe v. Wade decision; and
- protection of immigrant rights, and voting rights.

Judge Alito's record on these issues must be closely scrutinized. His legal opinions reveal that he sought to:

- Undermine the Family and Medical Leave Act;
- Make it more difficult for victims of racial and gender discrimination to prove their cases;
- Uphold a State of Pennsylvania law requiring women in certain circumstances to notify the husband before an abortion; and

- Restrict the Federal government's laws against possession of machine guns at gun shows.

All of these issues are at risk if Justice O'Connor is to be replaced with a nominee such as Judge Alito, who has a record of ideological activism against the rights we have fought so long and hard to attain."

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The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) is a bicameral and bipartisan caucus of Members of Congress of Asian and Pacific Islander descent and Members who have a strong dedication to promoting the well-being of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Founded in 1994 by then Congressman Norman Mineta, and currently chaired by Congressman Michael Honda, CAPAC has been addressing the needs of the AAPI community in all areas of American life. For more information on CAPAC, please call (202) 225-2631 or visit <http://www.honda.house.gov/capac>.